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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5428

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US, CA

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF KOMMUNIST, ISSUE 3

REF: STATE 072464

1. WESTERN EMBASSIES HAD STORY THAT KOMMUNIST NO. 3 WAS WITHDRAWN AT MOSCOW UNIVERSITY. EMBOFFS CHECKED SEVERAL LOCAL OUTLETS AND COULD NOT FIND ISSUE 3 ON SALE. EMBASSY SUBSCRIPTION COPY ARRIVED IN FIRST WEEK OF MARCH. U.S. JOURNALIST CALLED EDITORIAL OFFICE FOR EXPLANATION OF LATE DELIVERY OF HIS COPY AND WAS TOLD WITH EXPRESSION OF BEWILDERMENT THAT ISSUE WAS PRINTED ABOUT 10 DAYS BEFORE.

2. WE ARE STILL IN THE DARK, HOWEVER, REGARDING THE REASON FOR THE REPORTED WITHDRAWAL. WE AGREE THAT TSVIGUN IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH BREZHNEV AND IS ONE OF HIS MEN IN KEY POSITION IN KGB. THIS FACT, PLUS JAPN TRANSLATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVIEW IN QUESTION (REFTEL), CASTS DOUBT ON HYPOTHESIS THAT IT WAS THE TSVIGUN BOOK REVIEW THAT CAUSED WITHDRAWAL OF THE ISSUE. THE HARD-LINE LANGUAGE IN THE REVIEW ABOUT FOREIGN AGENTS AND GOALS OF INTELLIGENCE SERVICES IS NOT UNUSUAL COMING FROM THE KGB, PARTICULARLY JUST BEFORE THE TOURIST SEASON BEGINS. (WE NOTE THAT LITERARY GAZETTE REVIEWED THE BOOK ON FEBRUARY 27.)

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3020  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

SECRET FRONT, 1473

(TAYNYY FRONT)

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3, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME OTHER REASON FOR WITHDRAWING THE ISSUE. WE COMBED OUR COPY FOR OTHER POSSIBILITIES BUT COULD FIND NONE. IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT AN EXPURGATED ISSUE WAS DISSEMINATED, INCLUDING TO US.

ANOTHER POSSIBLE CLUE IS DISMISSAL OF CHIEF EDITOR A.G. YEGOROV IN MID-JANUARY, WHICH ALSO IS UNEXPLAINED.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET OBTAINED TSVIGUN'S BOOK, WHICH APPARENTLY CAME OUT IN LIMITED EDITION. WE ARE ON THE TRAIL OF A COPY WHICH WE CAN BORROW. WE UNDERSTAND THAT REUTERS RECENTLY RAN A STORY ON BOOK. STOESEL

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